Claim 58. A column in accordance with Claim 57, wherein said framework includes horizontal beams that coincide with and define a circle and a cross-section of said framework perpendicular to said central axis is substantially circular.

Claim 59. A column in accordance with Claim 57, comprising partitions disposed between said feeding troughs, said partitions having such dimensions which are sufficient to prevent animals at adjoining feeding troughs from disturbing each other when using their corresponding troughs for eating or drinking.

Claim 60. A column in accordance with Claim 57, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachably fitted to said framework.

Claim 61. A column in accordance with Claim 60, wherein said feeding troughs and said reservoirs are detachable from said framework without a requirement that tools be used to effect such detachments.

B1 Contd

Claim 62. A column in accordance with Claim 60, wherein said partitions and said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim 63. A column in accordance with Claim 59, wherein said reservoirs are detachably connected to said framework.

Claim 64. A column in accordance with Claim 59, wherein said partitions in said feeding troughs are detachably connected to said framework and to each other.

Claim 65. A column in accordance with Claim 57, wherein each of said feeding troughs comprises a metering device which is connected to said framework.

Claim 66. A column in accordance with Claim 57, wherein said reservoirs have similar configurations and are interchangeable.

Claim 67. A column in accordance with Claim 57, which comprises a weighing device which is interconnected to said framework for weighing materials delivered to said feeing troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim 68. A column in accordance with Claim 67, wherein said weighing device is movable about said central axis.

Claim 69. A column in accordance with Claim 57, which comprises a metering device which is disposed between at least one of said reservoirs and at least one of said feeding troughs.

Claim 70. A column in accordance with Claim 57, comprising at least one storage room and a metering device operatively associated therewith.

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Claim 71. A column in accordance with Claim 70, wherein said metering device comprises mixing means for mixing materials present in said storage room.

Claim 72. A column in accordance with Claim 70, wherein said metering device is rotatable about said central axis.

Claim 73. A column in accordance with Claim 72, comprising a drive unit for moving said metering device about said central axis.

Claim 74. A feeding column in accordance with Claim 57, comprising separation means for removing materials unfit for consumption by said animals from feed delivered to said feeding troughs from said reservoirs.

Claim 75. A column in accordance with Claim 74, wherein said separation means comprises at least one magnet.

Claim 76. A column in accordance with Claim 75, wherein said magnet is an electromagnet.

Claim 77. A column in accordance with Claim 51, comprising identification means for identifying individual animals, said identification means being operatively associated with each said feeding trough.

Claim 78. A column in accordance with Claim 31, which is mobile.

Claim 79. An apparatus for automatically feeding animals which comprises a circular framework disposed about a vertical axis which has on its upper aspect a storage house that contains a plurality of reservoirs, a plurality of delivering means interconnected to said framework disposed below said storage house, a plurality of vertical partitions extending radially from said framework, a plurality of side-by-side feeding troughs disposed below said storage house and between individual partitions, said feeding troughs being arranged in a circle around said axis, said partitions extending sufficiently beyond said feeding troughs to provide individual side-by-side stalls arranged in a circle around said axis for each feeding trough, animal identification means operatively associated with each said feeding trough, a computer memory connected to said animal identification means wherein the nutrition needs for each animal feeding at said feeding trough is stored in said memory, weighing means operatively associated with said feeding trough for determining the eating speed of an animal at each respective feeding trough, said reservoirs containing different feeds to provide fodder of different nutritional values, said reservoirs and said delivery means being controlled by said weighing means to deliver the amounts and types of fodder from said reservoirs to meet the nutrition needs of the animal at the feeding trough as identified by said identification means, each of said partitions, said troughs and said reservoirs respectively being substantially identical and being interconnected with said framework so that they are readily detachable therefrom.